

I Claim:

- 1 1. A ticket counter comprising:
 - 2 a transport mechanism for transporting tickets from an inlet, past a sensor, said
 - 3 transport mechanism maintaining contact with the tickets while exposing an outer
 - 4 edge of the tickets;
 - 5 a sensor adjacent the transport mechanism and positioned to read the exposed
 - 6 outer edge of said ticket while said ticket is being transported by the transport
 - 7 mechanism, the sensor determining a quantity of tickets transported by the transport
 - 8 mechanism past the sensor and generating a signal corresponding to said quantity;
 - 9 a computer in communication with said sensors for receiving said signal from
 - 10 the sensor; and
 - 11 a printer connected to said computer for printing the quantity of tickets
 - 12 transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.
- 1 2. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
- 2 tickets of paper.
- 1 3. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports
- 2 tickets of varying widths and lengths.

1008873-1-0001

1 11. The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets
2 includes a time that the tickets were distributed.

1 13. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a ticket shredding mechanism
2 for destroying the tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

1 14. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects light passing through
2 the tickets.

1 15. The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor interprets bar codes
2 imprinted on the tickets.

1 17. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to interpret bar
2 codes imprinted with translucent ink.

1 19. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor positioned at
2 a second outer edge of the tickets to read an opposite exposed outer edge of the tickets
3 while said tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

1 20. The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to recognize
2 counting markers imprinted on the ticket and determine a quantity of tickets passing
3 by the sensor by the number of recognized counting markers on the tickets.

1 21. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers correspond to a
2 geometric shape spanning two adjacent tickets and bisected by perforations separating
3 the two adjacent tickets.

1 22. The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers are imprinted
2 with an opaque ink.

1 23. The ticket counter of claim 20, wherein the counting markers occur on a
2 common edge of the tickets with a bar code imprinted on the tickets.

1 24. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor for actuating
2 the transport mechanism upon detection of a ticket at the inlet.

1 25. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor to read an
2 opposite side of the tickets while the tickets are transported by the transport
3 mechanism.

1 26. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising user input means for
2 terminating the ticket counting process and initiating a receipt print operation.

1 27. The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising data transmitting means for
2 transmitting data recorded by the computer to a remote computer.

1008878-10801